

Regional Geographic Initiative

Grant Workshop

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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Region 8

Cynthia Gonzales



Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI)

Water Quality

Goals of RGI – water quality

- High priority areas
 - Identified by region, state, tribes, localities, citizen groups
 - Potentially high human health or ecosystem risk
 - Due to significant potential risk reduction or avoidance



RGI – Water Quality Criteria (2007)



- Aligns with one or more regional priorities (agriculture, energy, revitalization, enhancing state capacity)
- Restoration/protection activities demonstrate improvements
- Active state, local, and/or other stakeholder participation

RGI – Water Quality Criteria (2007)



- Identifies project outputs and outcomes
- Innovation incorporated into restoration or protection activities
- Outcome of a comprehensive assess of WQ issues – part of a watershed plan
- Methods/tools/approaches – transferable

Evaluation Criteria

- Innovation
- Tangible solutions
 - Feasibility
 - Environmental measures
 - Integration
- Broad support (partnerships, inter-jurisdiction)
- Outreach
- Financial integrity

Successful Projects

- Well written, easy to understand project components and goals.
- Meets criteria in RFP.
 - MUST be for demonstration projects that demonstrative improvement in one or more threatened or imparied water bodies within focus areas.
- Partnerships, partnerships, partnerships.
- Innovation.

Successful Projects

- Multi-jurisdictional (state-tribe-county-city, etc.) Water quality authorities and control.
- Focus on real results to achieve water-quality goals.
- Should reflect restoration activities identified as part of a comprehensive watershed plan.
- Meet common watershed goals.

Ineligible Activities

- Projects that support regulatory requirements.
 - Funds for development of TMDLs.
 - Funding received for same project under the NPS grant program.
- Construction of major structures.

RGI Funding Details

- FY07 - approximately \$350 - \$450k available.
- Usually fund projects \$50K - \$100K.
- Grant periods are usually 2 years but can be up to 4 years.
- FY08 – RGI may take a \$4.9M reduction (agency level).
 - Impact.
 - Criteria may be focused to a small audience for requests;
 - Grant levels will be small and/or large (e.G., Only one grant awarded).
 - Region may use an internal solicitation.

Regional Contacts

- Cynthia Gonzales, 303-312-6569 (Water Quality)

gonzales.cynthia@epa.gov

- Tracy Eagle, 303-312-???? (Community Air Toxics)

eagle.tracy@epa.gov

Website

<http://www.epa.gov/region8/water/rgi/>

Questions?

